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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,743	03/29/2005	Jean-Thierry Simonnet	267329US0PCT	8358
22850	7590	05/20/2008		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
KASSA, TIOABU				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
4161				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/20/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,743

Applicant(s)

SIMONNET, JEAN-THIERRY

Examiner

TIGABU KASSA

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4161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 41-86 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 41-60, 81-83, and 86, drawn to a process for dissolving at least one lipophilic compound in an aqueous phase.

Group II, claim(s) 61-80 and 84-85, drawn to a cosmetic composition comprising at least one aqueous phase, at least one lipophilic compound and at least one block amphiphilic copolymer.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under 35 USC 121 or PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features:

The special technical feature shared by each invention is lipophilic compound in aqueous phase in the presence of amphiphilic copolymer comprising at least one of an ionic or a nonionic hydrophilic polymer block and at least one hydrophobic polymer block. The lipophilic compound in aqueous phase in the presence of amphiphilic copolymer comprising at least one of an ionic or a nonionic hydrophilic polymer block and at least one hydrophobic polymer block, of claim 61 does not present a contribution over the prior art since it is described in (U.S. patent No. 6, 322, 805 Issued on Nov. 27,

2001, see Abstract). As a result, Group I does not share a special technical feature with the composition claims of Group II. Therefore, the claims are not so linked by a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 so as to form a single inventive concept, and unity between Groups I-II is broken.

Election of Species

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

If Applicant elects Group I the following species election is required:

- Monomer unit of hydrophobic polymer block type (styrene, derivatives thereof, 4-butylstyrene....). Claim 41 recites these species.
- Hydrophobic polymer block polymerized unit should resemble to the monomer to be elected above (methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate....). Claim 45, 51, and 81 recite these species.
- Monomer for an ionic hydrophilic polymer block type ((meth)acrylic acid, acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulphonic acid....). Claim 46-47 recite these species.
- Monomer for nonionic hydrophilic polymer block type ((meth)acrylamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-methyl-N-vinylacetamide....). Claim 49-50 recites these species.

- Amphiphilic copolymer type (polystyrene/polyoxyethylene, polymethyl methacrylate/polyoxyethylene....). Claim 52 recites these species.
- Lipophilic compound type (an emollient, an antiinflammatory agent, an antibacterial agent, an antifungal agent....). Claims 53-60 recite these species.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: For each group the compound types are chemically and structurally distinct chemical entities.

If Applicant elects Group II the following species election is required:

- Monomer unit of hydrophobic polymer block type (styrene, derivatives thereof, 4-butylstyrene....). Claim 61 recites these species.
- Hydrophobic polymer block polymerized unit should resemble to the monomer to be elected above (methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate....). Claim 66 and 70 recite these species.
- Monomer for an ionic hydrophilic polymer block type ((meth)acrylic acid, acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulphonic acid....). Claim 46-47 recite these species.
- Monomer for nonionic hydrophilic polymer block type ((meth)acrylamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-methyl-N-vinylacetamide....). Claim 68 recites these species.

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- Amphiphilic copolymer type (polystyrene/polyoxyethylene, polymethyl methacrylate/polyoxyethylene....). Claim 71 recites these species.
- Lipophilic compound type (an emollient, an antiinflammatory agent, an antibacterial agent, an antifungal agent....). Claims 72-79 recite these species.
- Formulation adjuvant type (a fatty substance, an organic solvent, a thickener....). Claim 80 recites these species.
- Essential oil type (eucalyptus oil, lavandin oil, lavender oil, vetiver oil...). Claim 85 recites these species.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: For each group the compound types are chemically and structurally distinct chemical entities.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Regardless of the Group selected, applicant is required to define a single compound species with an exact chemical structure, no variables, from all the possible structures recited in the generic claims. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election. The following claim(s) are generic: For Group I, claims 41-44, 82, and 86 are generic,

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while claims 45-60, 81, and 83 are part of species. For Group II, claims 61-65, 67, and 84 are generic, while claims 66, 68-80, and 85 are part of species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

a) Each chemical species is a distinct chemical lacking a special technical feature in view of the fact that the core of the invention is not novel and has been previously disclosed in the prior art (U.S. patent No. 6, 322, 805 Issued on Nov. 27, 2001, see Abstract).

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is *presented prior to* final rejection or allowance,

whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be **allowable**, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*; *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996).

Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include all the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01. Filing of appropriate terminal disclaimer in anticipation of a rejoinder may speed prosecution and the process of rejoinder.

2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

3. The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

2. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIGABU KASSA whose telephone number is (571)270-5867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Nolan can be reached on 571-272-0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tigabu Kassa

05/14/08

/Patrick J. Nolan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4161